TWELFTH REPORT

[SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT]

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

OF THE

KENTUCKY INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF KENTUCKY,

FOR THE YEARS 1854 AND 1855.

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY,
A. G. HODGES, STATE PRINTER,
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REPORT.

To the General Assembly of Kentucky:

The Board of Visitors of the Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind, respectfully present their Twelfth Report, embracing a period of two years and one month, commencing December 1st, 1853, and ending December 31st, 1855.

In presenting this report the Visitors are happy to be able to state that the Institution, entrusted to their care, has, during the last two years, enjoyed, in many respects, remarkable prosperity. Not a death has occurred among the inmates of the Institution, and but a single case of severe illness, and the services of the physician have very rarely been needed; the pupils, with few exceptions, have been attentive to their studies and exemplary in their deportment; the officers have continued to discharge their arduous and responsible duties with kindness and fidelity, and to the entire satisfaction of the Board, and nothing has occurred in the school to interrupt the harmony or mar the happiness with which it has so long been favored. The prospects of the Institution for extensive usefulness, under the fostering care of the Legislature, are, we believe, much more flattering at the present time than at any former period.

The remarkable exemption, so long enjoyed by the inmates of the Institution, from disease and death, demands our deepest gratitude. During the fearful ravages of the terrible pestilence which has repeatedly swept over the land and filled other Institutions with mourning, and dispersed the panic-struck survivors, the inmates of this Institution have all been preserved, and the exercises of the school have never been interrupted. In the fourteen years of its existence the school has lost but two of its pupils by death, and these two were in feeble health at the time of their admission.

The hygienic regulations of the Institution are judicious; the food of the pupils is simple, varied, and nutricious; the rooms are airy and well ventilated, and, in all respects, carefully attended to; the pupils are furnished with varied and agreeable employment for mind and body; they are ever surrounded with all the comforts and conveniences of a well regulated family; and, if at any time they suffer from sickness, they are provided with every comfort, and cared for with the tenderest solicitude by experienced and skillful nurses and the best physicians.

Of the general deportment of most of the pupils we cannot speak in terms of too high commendation. No class of young persons, within the limits of our knowledge, are more attentive to the regulations of school, or manifest a more grateful appreciation of their educational

privileges. A class more cheerful, contented, kind, obedient and conscientious, it would be difficult to find. Unintentional violations of the regulations of the Institution rarely occur; an instance of willful disobedience, during the last year, is not recollected.

The intellectual improvement of the pupils has not been as great during the last two years as formerly, in consequence of the neccessary transfer of a large part of the time and attention of the superintendent from the supervision and instruction of the school, to the new edifice in course of erection at the distance of three miles from the former location of the Institution. The reduction of the number of the teachers, which the scantiness of the funds of the Institution rendered necessary, has also been seriously felt in the intellectual department of the school. The ready assistance of some of the more advanced pupils has, only in part, supplied the deficiency.

The labors of the Superintendent have been constant and uninterrmitted as Superintendent of the school, in all its departments, instructor, steward, and Superintendent of the new edifice. But the performance of all these duties has been a labor of love, and cheerfully performed. In the intellectual department of the school the Superintendent has had, during the present session, the aid of only a single teacher, and that one blind, a graduate of this Institution.

In the musical department, Mr. Smith continues to give entire satisfaction. He is engaged, for three hours daily, in the Institution, and devotes the rest of his time to the instruction of seeing pupils in the city. Though entirely blind from early infancy, there is not probably a more thorough and accomplished pianist and teacher of music in the state of Kentucky. By his success as an organist, pianist and teacher, he furnishes striking evidence of the importance of musical education to the Blind.

The few pupils, who have been employed in the mechanical department, are young, and the amount of work done has been small.

Statement of the business of the work department from December 1, 1853 *to December* 31, 1854.

To value of manufactured articles on hand December 1, 1853, - - -		$ 63 35
To value of unmanufactured stock on hand December 1, 1853, - - -		677 18
To cost of materials from December 1, 1853, to December 31, 1853, - -		641 20
To wages of foreman and other workmen, same time, - - - - - -		462 80
		1,844 53
By value of stock on hand December 31, 1854, - - -	$ 356 29	
By value of articles consumed by fire in 1854, - - -	65 00	
By sales from December 1, 1853, to December 31, 1854, - -	1,123 30	
		1,544 59
Balance against department, - - - - - - - - - - -		299 94
Amount of sales in 1854, - - - - - - - - - - - -		1,123 30
Amount expended in materials and wages 1854, - - - - - - -		1,104 00
Cash on hand December 31, 1854, - - - - - - - - - -		19 30

Statement of business of work department from January 1, 1855, *to December* 31, 1855:

To value of stock on hand January 1, 1855,		$356 29
To cost of materials in 1855,		195 90
To wages of foreman in 1855,		102 00
		654 19
By value of stock on hand December 31, 1855,	$234 49	
By sales in 1855,	495 08	
		729 57
Balance in favor of work department,		75 38
Amount of sales in 1855,		495 08
Amount expended in materials and wages 1855,		297 90
		197 18
Add cash on hand December 31, 1854,		19 30
Cash on hand December 31, 1855,		$216 48

The thanks of the Institution are due to the proprietors of the Louisville Journal, Louisville Courier, Louisville Times, Presbyterian Herald, Western Recorder, and Kentucky Yeoman, and to Mrs. C. F. Ford, J. W. Henning, Esq., and the ladies of the Christian Church, under the care of Rev. D. P. Henderson, for their highly valued favors to the pupils.

One of the most important and note-worthy events in the history of the Institution during the last two years, is the removal of the Blind school, on the 8th day of October last, to the new edifice, erected for its accommodation by the authority and under the direction of the state of Kentucky. It affords the Board gratification to report that such parts of the building are completed as justified the removal, and that, so far as completed, the building fulfills the highest anticipations of the Board and all connected with the Institution; and, already, even in its present unfinished condition, furnishes to the school accommodations far superior to any heretofore enjoyed by it. The edifice, in all its parts, is remarkably well adapted to the purposes for which it was designed, and commands the admiration and approval of all competent persons who have carefully examined it. The plan seems as perfect as human ingenuity, with a proper regard to economy, could make it. Erected at far less cost than the buildings for similar Institutions in some other states of the Union, it will be, when completed, unsurpassed, if not unequaled, by any, in the perfection of the plan, its adaptation to the wants of the Institution, the quality of the work and materials, the harmony of its proportions, and the simple beauty of the interior and exterior.

Soon after the conflagration, in the year 1851, by which the former building of the Institution was destroyed, the Legislature of Kentucky directed that the lot, previously occupied by said building, should be sold, and appointed a Board of Commissioners to select a much larger

and more suitable lot for the permanent location of the Institution, and to lay before the Governor of the State plans of such a building as was necessary for the accommodation of the school. In accordance with this liberal act, a most desirable and beautiful lot of ten acres, near the eastern boundary of the city of Louisville, was selected by the Commissioners, approved by the Governor, and, by his order, purchased by the Trustees, in the name of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In accordance with the provisions of the same act, well-matured plans of a building were presented by the Commissioners, and approved by the Governor, who directed the building to be erected upon the aforesaid lot. Although, by this act of the General Assembly, the Trustees were relieved from all responsibility with regard to the selection of the lot and the adoption of the plan, they carefully examined both, and gave to both their unqualified and unanimous approval. To enable the Trustees to purchase the lot and commence the erection of the building, the Legislature made an appropriation of ten thousand dollars, in the year 1852; and, at the session of 1853–4, an additional appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars was made to enable them to proceed with the work. With these sums and the proceeds of the sale of the lot formerly occupied by the Institution, and a small sum received on account of insurance, the land has been purchased, the edifice erected, inclosed, and so much of the interior completed as is neccessary to accommodate a school of moderate size. Since the removal of the school to the new building, the number of applicants has largely increased, of whom eleven have already been admitted, and, in the ensuing spring, the number will undoubtedly greatly exceed the means of accommodation afforded by the building in its present unfinished condition. In order, therefore, to enable the Institution to receive all the unfortunate blind who may desire to avail themselves of its privileges, it is the duty of the Board of Visitors to solicit an appropriation to complete, in whole or in part, the unfinished portions of the building. To complete the entire edifice, erect the necessary outbuildings, and grade and otherwise improve the grounds, we believe, from reliable estimates, that twenty thousand dollars will be sufficient; provided, we continue to warm the building by means of stoves, as at present, instead of the more expensive, but safer and more healthy hot water or steam apparatus, as originally intended. It is, however, the earnest desire of the Board of Visitors, that the members of the General Assembly, in person, or by a committee from each branch thereof, will visit the Institution, and inspect it, and form their own judgment as to the building, the character of the work, and the amount required for the completion of it. The Trustees and Superintendent will, with the greatest cheerfulness, afford every facility for examining the building and all departments of the Institution, to the members of the Legislature, or to any committee, appointed for that

purpose. A personal inspection of the school will so fully demonstrate the value of the Institution, the claims of the Blind, and the necessity of educating them, that, on that account, if for no other reason, we would respectfully and earnestly solicit the appointment of a committee of visitation.

The Superintendent of the Institution will visit the capital of the State, during the present session of the Legislature, with several of his pupils, and give an exhibition of their attainments, before the General Assembly, in case the members desire it.

The Trustees, during the last two years, have continued to entrust the management of the building operations to the same committee that so satisfactorily commenced the work, as stated in our last Report to the General Assembly. The Superintendent of the Institution, who is a member of the Building Committee, has given his personal attention to all parts of the work, and has had the supervision and direction of all the workmen, the purchase of materials, &c. By this arrangement, the Trustees have secured the constant attention of a competent person, who is, at all times, responsible to the Board and the State for the faithful conduct of the work. The Building Committee have discharged their responsible duties with remarkable ability and fidelity.

The building fund, entrusted to the Board during the last two years, has been as follows:

Balance on hand at date of last Report,	$ 145 95
From State Treasurer in 1854,	20,000 00
From State Treasurer in 1855,	5,000 00
From Louisville and Portland Railroad,	600 00
Proceeds of sales of old brick,	339 76
Proceeds of sales of old railroad iron,	1,048 35
	$ 27,134 06
Expended upon the new Building, ground, &c.,	27,788 05
Balance due Building committee,	$ 653 99

For a detailed statement of the building operations, the present condition of the Building, the cost of the various kinds of work, &c., we respectfully refer the members of the General Assembly to the accompanying Report of the Building Committee, which has been unanimously approved by this Board. We have carefully examined the accounts of the Building Committee, and found them entirely correct. The vouchers for all money expended in the building, are deposited with the Treasurer of the Institution, John Milton, Esq., Cashier of the Northern Bank of Kentucky, and are at all times subject to the order of the General Assembly, and open to the inspection of any Legislative Committee.

The number of pupils during the session of 1854, was thirty—fourteen males, and sixteen females. The number in the session of 1855,

has been thirty-eight—twelve males, and twenty-six females. Since the last Report was presented, nineteen new pupils have been admitted into the Institution—eight males and eleven females; of whom, eleven have entered since the removal of the school to the new Building. Two have received diplomas, six have been dismissed, without having passed entirely through the prescribed course of study, and for one, an orphan, whose vision had so greatly improved in the Institution as to enable her to read in books printed in the ordinary manner, a pleasant home was secured in the country. The number of the blind, connected with the Institution, at the present time, is thirty-eight. All the pupils except one are inhabitants of the State of Kentucky.

The number of pupils the last two years, has been about as large as could be conveniently accommodated in the University Building, occupied by the school during the last four years; and the Superintendent has been prevented by this cause, as well as by the scantiness of the funds of the Institution, from making any extraordinary efforts to increase the number. As soon as the unfinished portions of the new Building, or any considerable part thereof, shall be completed, the school will be greatly enlarged. The experience of this and similar Institutions fully proves the importance of visiting the Blind in their dark and cheerless homes, in all parts of the State, to make known to them the inestimable privileges that have been opened to them by the wisdom and munificence of the Legislature; to convince them of the importance of availing themselves of those privileges; to remove incredulity on the part of parents, as to the practicability and necessity of educating their blind children; to overcome their reluctance to entrust to the care of others their afflicted, and, on that account, most tenderly loved children; and sometimes, though less frequently, to overcome unwillingness on the part of the blind themselves, to leave their homes for the advantages offered to them in the Institution. Without efforts of this kind, a majority of the blind will probably never apply for admission into school until the spring-time of their life has entirely passed. The officers of all the older Institutions for the Blind, including those that have been in existence nearly a quarter of a century, find it necessary to travel repeatedly with some of their pupils in their respective States; and the more recently established schools in the Western States, where the blessings of common school education are not so generally diffused, find the necessity of such tours still greater. The Superintendent hopes, in the course of the ensuing year, to visit, with one or more pupils, many of those counties not heretofore visited, that the friends of the Blind and the people generally may be eyewitnesses of the capabilities of the Blind under appropriate means of instruction, and of the remarkable attainments in Literature, Music, and the Mechanic Arts, which, under the fostering care of the State, they have been enabled to make.

The lack of information in many parts of Kentucky, respecting the character, objects, and even the existence of a benevolent Institution of the State, that, for the last fourteen years, has been freely dispensing its inestimable blessings to the unfortunate Blind of the State, is truly wonderful. The ignorance in regard to the capabilities of the Blind, is hardly less surprising. Among a score of blind persons visited in Kentucky, few had any knowledge of the existence of the School for the Blind, and hardly one had a correct idea of its character and the terms upon which pupils are admitted. Many of the Blind of Kentucky are deterred from applying for admission, by the belief that they will not be received, unless they pay for their board and tuition; and a still larger number, by the erroneous impression that none but those *totally* blind are admissible.

The Board of Visitors and the Superintendent have, in all proper ways, endeavored to make known to all the citizens of Kentucky, the enlightened and liberal policy of the State in opening the Institution freely, not only to those who are *totally blind*, but also to such as are disqualified, by defective vision, from pursuing their studies in the schools established for the seeing.

To enable the officers of the Institution more readily to reach the Blind in their secluded homes, the Legislature of Kentucky, on the 9th day of January, 1852, passed the following "*Act in relation to the Blind children of Kentucky: Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That from and after the present year, it shall be the duty of the Commissioners of tax in each county in this Commonwealth, to ascertain and return on the back of their books, respectively, the names and ages of all blind children, under twenty years of age, in their respective counties, together with the name of the Post Office nearest to the residence of each.*"

Were the duties of the Commissioners, as defined in the foregoing Act, strictly performed from year to year, the labor and expense of ascertaining the residences of the blind and purblind children of the State, would be very greatly lessened; and many of the unfortunate beings, now sitting in cheerless idleness and hopeless dependence, might, ere this time, have been gladdened by the pure and ennobling joys of knowledge and the hope of being prepared for lives of industry and honorable independence. If, among the legal duties of the Commissioners, any may be lightly regarded or carelessly disregarded, it would certainly seem that those duties, prescribed by the benevolence of the General Assemby, which involve the life-long happiness of the unfortunate and helpless blind children and youth of the State, are not the first to be thus lightly esteemed. And yet we are pained to know that after the General Assembly has repeatedly enacted laws making it obligatory upon the Commissioners to return the names and ages of

the blind in their respective counties, in many parts of the State not one in twenty of the blind are reported, while in many other counties, the duties of the Commissioners in regard to the Blind, are altogether disregarded.

The returns of the Marshals of the United States, with regard to the Blind, though not perfect, prove to be much more reliable than those of the county Commissioners. From the census of the United States and the statistics, collected by the Superintendent, during the last fifteen years, we are satisfied that the number of blind persons in Kentucky is more than six hundred. Of these probably not less than one hundred and fifty are of suitable age to be admitted into the Institution as pupils. For the physical, intellectual and moral education of all these afflicted children of the State, of whom most are in indigent circumstances, and many are penniless orphans, with none to care for or guide them in their darkness, the State of Kentucky, with a wise and liberal policy, worthy of her name, has determined to make ample provision. In pursuance of this praiseworthy determination, she has erected an edifice sufficiently large to accommodate all; and, by Legislative enactment, directed that its doors shall be opened to all who are worthy of admission, without regard to their pecuniary circumstances. The poor are no longer humiliated by being required to present proofs of their poverty as a pre-requisite to the reception of their children, and the children of the wealthy are admitted, upon the same terms, to the same privileges. All the blind children of Kentucky are admissible as beneficiaries of the State. The only qualifications for admission are unblemished character, suitable age, fair mental capacity, and freedom from offensive and infectious diseases. Here are no invidious distinctions. Side by side, at the same table, with their teachers, and partaking of the same food, sit the children of poverty and the children of opulence, equally blessed in being permitted, by the munificence of the State, to drink at the same fountains of knowledge.

While we congratulate the State upon the continued prosperity and advancement of the Institution, we cannot fully discharge our duty without making known to the General Assembly the urgent wants of the School, and the inadequacy of the means in the hands of the Board of Visitors to meet those wants, especially while the present high prices of provisions continue. The usefulness of the School and the progress of the pupils have been seriously retarded for years by the want of an organ, pianos, books, maps, globes, and other school apparatus, and furniture for the school rooms, dormitories, and other parts of the house. By act of the Legislature, the Trustees were authorised to purchase a small organ in the year 1848, but it unfortunately was consumed in the same fire that destroyed the building of the Institution in 1851. Since that time we have never had the means

to purchase another organ. This want we have deeply regretted; an organ being highly necessary in a school for the Blind, as by the use of it many of the pupils may qualify themselves for situations as organists in churches, and thereby secure an honorable and independent support. By the same fire the Institution lost one piano, and another was nearly ruined. Several new pianos are immediately needed for the use of a considerable number of the pupils, who, with commendable industry, are qualifying themselves for independent support as pianists and teachers of music. All the raised maps, except one, have been, by the long continued fingering of the pupils, rendered totally unfit for use. Of astronomical and philosophical apparatus and globes, the Institution has ever been entirely destitute. The Library of the Institution has ever been very small and entirely inadequate to the wants of the School. A considerable part of the school and household furniture was lost by the fire, and we have been able to replace only a very small part of it. Without a supply of beds, tables, chairs and other articles of furniture, it will be impossible to accommodate any of the Blind who are now anxiously waiting for favorable replies to their applications for admission into the Institution. Since the removal of the School from the city to the new location, a pair of horses and a car have been needed to convey the pupils to the churches of their choice in the city; but, in consequence of the want of funds, the purchase of horses, &c, has been postponed, and a temporary arrangement has been made to convey the pupils to the city once every Sunday.

In addition to all these pressing wants we regret to be under the necessity of adding another still more imperative—the want of teachers. In order to confine the expenses of the Institution within its income, we have been compelled to dispense with the services of teachers, formerly employed, and to reduce the hard-earned salaries of other officers. The necessity of reducing the number of teachers, during the last two years, when the interests of the Institution and the State required the Superintendent to devote a large part of his time and attention to the new Building, and thus deprived the School of his constant supervision, and, to a great extent, of his services as teacher of several classes, which he was accustomed to instruct in the earlier years of the Institution, has been seriously felt and constantly regretted by the Board and all connected with the Institution. But without incurring a debt which we had not the means to meet there was no alternative.

In consequence of the most rigid economy we are able to report that the Institution is entirely free from debt on account of current expenses.

The receipts of the Institution to meet the ordinary current expenses for two years and one month, commencing December 1, 1853, and ending December 31, 1855, have been as follows:

Allowance for beneficiaries for last quarter in 1853,		$731 16
Annual appropriation, 1854,		3,000 00
Allowance for beneficiaries, 1854,		3,075 83
Annual appropriation, 1855,		3,000 00
Allowance for beneficiaries, 1855,		2,911 65
Balance of rent from J. McLain,		15 00
From board and tuition of pupil from Texas, one quarter,		30 00
For board and tuition of pupil from Mississippi, one year,		120 00
Balance in treasury at date of last report,		38 25
		12,921 89
The ordinary expenses of the Institution have been for		
Salaries of officers for six months ending December 31, 1853,	$1,337 50	
Salary of physician same time,	75 00	
Provisions, groceries, &c., for one month ending December 31, 1853,	146 89	
Wages of servants, one month ending December 31, 1853,	51 70	
Salaries of officers for year 1854,	2,425 00	
Salary of physician 1854,	150 00	
Salary of officers 1855,	2,185 00	
Salary of physician 1855,	150 00	
Wages of servants 1854,	531 69	
Wages of servants 1855,	574 97	
Provisions, groceries, and medicines for twenty-five months ending December 31, 1855,	3,306 68	
Coal in 1854 and 1855,	543 46	
Wood in 1854 and 1855,	236 75	
Insurance $100, Lumber $26 55,	126 55	
Expenses of exhibition and traveling,	83 75	
Books, maps, &c.,	177 43	
Piano and stools,	316 00	
Dry goods, shoes, &c.,	212 84	
Rent of shop from December 1, 1853, to October 1, 1855,	250 00	
Expenses of removing to new building,	39 00	
		12,920 21
Balance in hands of treasurer,		$1 68

But while, by the practice of the strictest economy, unparalleled in any State Institution of which we have any knowledge, we are able to make the foregoing report, we do not for a moment believe that any enlightened member of the General Assembly will be willing that this interesting and noble State Institution, which is conferring so many priceless benefits upon the unfortunate, shall longer be deprived of the means necessary to its fullest usefulness and success.

We do not, however, recommend a special appropriation to meet these urgent wants of the Institution. We merely recommend that the same sum now allowed by the State for the support of the pupils of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, may be allowed for the support and education of the Blind pupils in this Institution.

The Legislature of Kentucky formerly allowed to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum and to the Institution for the Education of the Blind, *one hundred and twenty dollars* per annum for every State pupil. By an act of the General Assembly, approved January 7, 1852, the annual allowance for the support of the pupils in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, was "increased to *one hundred and forty dollars* for each pupil." No corresponding allowance has yet been made in favor of

the Blind. Moreover, an annual appropriation is made by the State to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum to clothe its indigent pupils; but no similar appropriation has ever been made to this Institution to clothe its indigent blind pupils; many of whom have been entirely dependent upon the Superintendent and a few other benevolent individuals for the means to procure necessary clothing, during all the years of their connection with the Institution.

The Board of Visitors, therefore, respectfully solicit the same annual allowance for the Blind, that has been for years so generously granted to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum. We also solicit a small annual appropriation to enable the Institution to procure clothing for those pupils that are destitute of friends and pecuniary means. When these two recommendations of the Board shall be adopted by the General Assembly, the Institution for the Education of the Blind will be, so far as support from the State of Kentucky is concerned, placed upon the same footing as the Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

The Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind has peculiar claims upon the State, possessed, perhaps, to the same extent by no other educational Institution within its borders. It is strictly a State Institution; established for the benefit of an afflicted class, whose condition makes a more affecting appeal to the sympathies of the benevolent than any other. The Institution was called into existence by the Legislature of Kentucky; its Trustees are appointed by the State authorities; its buildings, grounds, furniture, books, and everything belonging to it, are the property of the State; and it is, in the language of the act which created it, "in all things and at all times subject to the control of the Legislature;" and with the exception of the support received from the benevolent citizens of Louisville during the first year of its existence, and the occasional aid, in pressing emergencies, which the citizens of that city, when solicited, have never refused, the Institution necessarily depends solely upon the Legislature for support.

The Deaf and Dumb Asylum received originally from the Congress of the United States, a liberal endowment, from which it has derived, from year to year, a considerable income, in addition to the appropriations so liberally granted by the Legislature of Kentucky.

It is worthy of remark, that the education of the Blind is attended with far greater expense than the education of any class of *seeing* persons. All the arrangements of society, including the printing of books, the construction of maps, and all kinds of apparatus for educational purposes, have ever been, until within the last few years, adapted to persons *with eyes*, without any regard to the Blind. The art of printing for the seeing, and other kindred arts have consequently attained to great perfection; and the products of these arts are afforded at very low prices. Books, maps, charts, &c., for the Blind, on the

contrary, are of recent origin; and on account of their peculiar construction and the limited demand for them, they not only are exceedingly expensive now, but they will undoubtedly ever remain so.

The following statement will convey a clear idea of the comparative expense of educating the Blind and any other class of seeing persons:

A Bible for any seeing person, whether a deaf-mute or not, can be purchased for *thirty cents*, and a slate, for a still smaller price. A Bible in raised letters for the Blind, printed by the American Bible Society, and therefore the very cheapest book in proportion to its size, ever printed for the Blind, costs, at the house of the Society, in New York, *twenty dollars;* and the expense of transporting a single copy from New York to Louisville, is never less than two or three dollars more. A slate prepared for the Blind with the necessary characters, used in our School, costs five dollars. A map, suitable for any seeing pupil, that may be purchased for five dollars, will, when properly adapted to the wants of the Blind, cost nearly ten times that sum. Not only are books for the Blind very expensive at first, but the raised letters, being subjected to the continual pressure of the pupils' fingers, soon become obliterated, and the books must be replaced by others. Globes for the Blind are also very expensive, usually costing several hundred dollars each. The other apparatus for the Blind is proportionally expensive. Moreover, in Schools for the Blind, organs, pianos and other expensive musical instruments are necessary, as many of the pupils are qualified, by a knowledge of music, to secure for themselves an independent and honorable support, who, but for their attainments in this branch, would be a burden upon the community. It is also necessary to instruct the blind pupils in various mechanic arts, as a means of support to many, and as a means of cultivating the physical powers of all. This, of course, subjects the Institution to a large expense for mechanical teachers, foremen, workshops, tools, materials, &c. Besides the Blind obviously require a larger number of teachers and attendants than any other class of pupils.

Nor can we forbear to name an item of expenditure for which probably no public Institution in the world, except the Kentucky Institution for the Blind, is required to provide. By an act of the Legislature of Kentucky, in 1850, honorable alike to the State and the age, the officers of this Institution are authorised to present, in the name of the Commonwealth, to every graduate of the Institution, a copy of the entire Bible in raised letters and other books, amounting in value to nearly twenty-five dollars. To make this donation to each of the pupils connected with the School, at the present time, will subject the Institution to an expense of nearly one thousand dollars. To meet the expense consequent upon the passage of the aforesaid Act, no special

provision has ever been made; but, on the contrary, in the language of the law, "it is considered and accounted as an item of the ordinary expenses of the Institution." The provision is a most noble and liberal one, and has ever received the cordial approbation of the Board of Visitors. No duty of the Officers of the Institution is more cheerfully performed than that of placing the Holy Scriptures in the hands of the Blind graduates, to enlighten the dark paths of their earthly pilgrimage. No act of the General Assembly more beautifully illustrates the generosity of the people of Kentucky, nor more impressively shows that the representatives are the true exponents of an enlightened and liberal people. Still, conformity to the act makes a serious draft upon the limited means of the Institution, which needs to be provided for.

When all the circumstances enumerated above are taken into consideration, the members of the General Assembly will probably be surprised that the State undertook to educate the Blind at so much less expense than has been found necessary for the education of the Deaf and Dumb; and they will perhaps doubt the practicability of properly educating the former class on the terms herein proposed. Nevertheless, with the addition to the means of the Institution, herein recommended, and the completion of the Building already erected by the State, we are confident that, with the rigid economy, which we have so well learned to practice, during the fourteen years of the existence of the School, we shall be able, in a few years, to supply all those wants that have hitherto so seriously retarded its progress, greatly increase its usefulness, render it far more creditable to the noble State which created it, and make it, in all respects, equal to the oldest and most prosperous Institutions in the land. Respectfully submitted.

KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,
January 15, 1856.

At a meeting of the Board of Visitors of the Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind, January 15, 1856, the foregoing Report was adopted as the Twelfth Report of the Board to the General Assembly of Kentucky.

BRYCE M. PATTEN, Secretary.

BOARD OF VISITORS.

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TEACHER.

JOSEPH B. SMITH,
TEACHER OF MUSIC.

MRS. MARY H. PARIS,
MATRON.

WILLIAM MARTIN,
FOREMAN IN MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT.

ROBERT C. HEWETT,
PHYSICIAN.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS FOR THE YEAR 1854.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
Samuel W. Stivers,	Bourbon county.
William Martin,	Boyle county.
John Adams,	Garrard county.
Weeden Black,	Laurel county.
Martha A. Boyd,	Paducah.
Mary J. Buckner,	Louisville.
Benjamin Calvert,	Boone county.
Margaret R. Clark,	Marshall county.
Sarah M. Clark,	Marshall county.
Mary Costello,	Louisville.
Elizabeth M. Cox,	Trigg county.
Rachel M. Davis,	Taylorsville.
Ellen Emmons,	Louisville.
Mary S. Edwards,	Logan county.
Lucy J. Edwards,	Logan county.
Madison J. Garrison,	Christian county.
Elizabeth Henning,	Louisville.
Henry L. Kidd,	Lexington.
Susan H. Krusor,	Lexington.
Reuben McClanahan,	Logan county.
William L. Moore,	Palestine, Texas.
Philip T. Patterson,	Grayson county.
Simeon Peyton,	Lincoln county.
Rebecca Rogers,	Fayette county.
Sarah Robinson,	Jefferson county.
Elizabeth Shevals,	Hawesville.
James Shevals,	Hawesville.
Robert M. Short,	Muhlenburg county.
Mary J. Saddler,	Jefferson county.
Richard S. Vaughan,	Bullitt county.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS FOR THE YEAR 1855.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
Eliza Allen,	Larue county.
Alexander Booth,	Louisville.
Martha A. Boyd,	Paducah.
Mary J. Buckner,	Louisville.
Angelina Clark,	Edmonson county.
Margaret R. Clark,	Marshall county.
Sarah M. Clark,	Marshall county.
Mary Cline,	Louisville.
Mary Costello,	Louisville.
Rachel M. Davis,	Taylorsville.
Frances A. Dupuy,	Henry county.
Ellen Emmons,	Louisville.
Mary S. Edwards,	Logan county.
Luey J. Edwards,	Logan county.
Sarah J. Fitch,	Lewis county.
Elizabeth Henning,	Louisville.
Samuel T. Johnson,	Lewis county.
Henry L. Kidd,	Lexington.
Susan H. Krusor,	Lexington.
Coroline M. Kouns,	Carter county.
Reuben McClanahan,	Logan county.
Richard Meade,	Greenup county.
Stewart Morris,	Frankfort.
Sidney G. Nance,	Paducah.
Philip T. Patterson,	Grayson county.
Milton D. Peters,	Aberdeen, Miss.
Simeon Peyton,	Lincoln county.
Rebecca Rogers,	Lexington.
Sarah Robinson,	Jefferson county.
Elizabeth T. Shevals,	Hawesville.
James Shevals,	Hawesville.
Robert M. Short,	Muhlenburg county.
Mary J. Saddler,	Jefferson county.
Martha Swope,	Lagrange.
Christiana Smith,	Louisville.
Catherine Salmon,	Louisville.
Richard S. Vaughan,	Bullitt county.
Mary Williams,	Greenup county.

ADMISSION OF PUPILS.

Applications for admission must be addressed to the Director of the Institution; but no person who is under six or over fifteen years of age. can be admitted without a special vote of the Board of Visitors.

Candidates for admission must be of good mental capacity, and must present certificates from some respectable physician, of freedom from all offensive and infectious diseases; and must furnish satisfactory testimonials of unexceptionable moral character.

Every application must state the name, residence and post-office address of the applicant; the year, month, day and place of birth; the names of his parents, and whether they are living; at what age and by what means the blindness was produced; whether it is total, and whether there are other instances of blindness in the same family, or among their relatives.

Blind children resident in Kentucky will be received and educated at the expense of the state. In addition to all the above requirements they must furnish certificates from some magistrate or other well known respectable citizen, that they are inhabitants of the state of Kentucky.

Pupils must come provided with a full supply of comfortable clothing, which must be marked with the name of the owner, and be renewed, from time to time, as may be necessary. Travelling expenses to and from the Institution must be paid by the pupils or their friends.

The annual expenses for paying pupils, for board and tuition, washing and music, are one hundred dollars. If the pupil remains at the Institution during the vacation, an additional charge of twenty dollars is made.

The annual term of study commences on the 20th day of September, and closes on the 15th day of July. Pupils should be present at the commencement of the term, remain till it closes, and then return to their homes and spend the vacation with their friends.

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

To the Board of Visitors:

The Building Committee respectfully present the following report:—In prosecuting the work entrusted to us by your board, we have strictly adhered to the general rules, which we adopted for our guidance at the time of our appointment, as stated in our former report. We have endeavored carefully to avoid all unnecessary expenditure in the erection of the edifice, to procure good materials, employ the best workmen, and have all parts of the work executed in the most substantial and faithful manner.

The bricks necessary to complete the building were furnished by Messrs. McClelland and Pettit, at the rate of four dollars and fifty cents per thousand; and were laid by Mr. H. T. Kerlin, at four dollars per thousand. The window sills and caps were set by Messrs. Vincent and Struby. All the lumber was obtained in Louisville and its vicinity, except the yellow pine flooring, which Mr. Patton procured, in person, from the mills in the state of Mississippi, at prices twenty-five per cent. lower than an inferior article would have cost in Kentucky. Messrs. Quinn and Buckner made the window sash at $1 62½ per window; and Messrs. Epperson and Bree made the doors, in a superior manner, at sixty per cent. less than the Louisville bill of prices. The other carpenter work was done by men employed by the week, under the direct superintendence of the Building Committee.

Through the kindness of our friends, Messrs. Hegan and Escott, and Messrs. Wallace, Lithgow & Co., we obtained, directly from the manufactures, the tin for the roof and the glass for the building, at prices very much lower than they would have cost in Louisville. Messrs. Green and Stealey laid the tin; Messrs. T. Williams & Co. executed the plumber's work; and Mr. J. N. Glover, the plastering. Mr. W. B. Mahone furnished the banisters, and Messrs. Dougherty and McCorkhill, the other turned work for the building. Messrs. Hickman and Marcus painted the roof; Mr. W. Bennett primed and glazed the windows; the other painting was done by men employed by the week.

On account of the scantiness of the funds the wood work has as yet received but two coats of paint: and parts of it have merely been primed. All the floors have been deafened by pugging, by which the building is made nearly fire-proof.

All the contractors, except one who was promptly discharged for violation of his contract, have executed their work in a manner satisfactory to the committee.

The building fund, for the last two years, has been derived from the following sources:

Balance in hands of committee at date of last report,	$145 95
Cash from treasurer of Kentucky,	25,000 00
Cash from L. Ruffner for old iron,	1,048 35
Cash from Louisville and Portland railroad,	600 00
Cash for old bricks,	339 76
	27,134 06

The following sums have been expended in materials for building, and work on same:

Paid McClelland & Pettit, bricks,	$3,385 70	
Paid H. T. Kerlin, bricklaying,	4,394 80	
Paid J. Foster & Co., stone-sills and caps,	146 45	
Paid Vincent & Struby, stone setting,	297 40	
Paid D. Smith & Son, lumber,	395 85	
Paid Lavielle & Thornberry, lumber,	1,230 19	
Paid J. Smith & Co., lumber,	401 64	
Paid J. N. Breeden & Co., lumber,	648 35	
Paid J. Hite, for lumber,	40 74	
Paid George Rader & Brother, lumber,	1,287 24	
Paid W. Hulings & Co., lumber,	1,436 16	
Paid John Graham, lumber,	37 62	
Paid Quinn & Buckner, making sash,	361 37	
Paid Epperson & Bree, making doors,	336 50	
Paid Wm. Kennedy, stairs,	162 07	
Paid Dougherty & McCorkhill, turning,	191 50	
Paid F. Costigan, services,	950 00	
Paid Beaverson & Martin,	20 00	
Paid Wallace & Lithgow, tin,	1,232 93	
Paid Green & Stealey, roofing,	381 20	
Paid Hickman & Marcus, painting roof.	133 36	
Paid W. Bennet, priming and glazing,	270 80	
Paid Livingston, Tilton & Co., painting,	330 71	
Paid Hegan & Escott, glass,	522 59	
Paid T. Williams & Co., gas and water pipe,	253 09	
Paid J. N. Glover, plastering,	1,149 76	
Paid W. B. Mahone, banisters,	110 90	
Paid J N. Stickles, flooring,	331 25	
Paid steamboat Wm. Garvin, flooring,	282 00	
Paid steamboat Tishomingo, flooring,	341 21	
Paid Eli Gardner and others, hauling,	21 00	
Paid T. Savage, grading, removing rubbish, &c.,	399 42	
Paid P. Hynes and other laborers,	367 50	
Paid C. Wohltman, &c., sundries,	90 72	
Paid Wohltman, Humes, &c., carpenters,	5,846 03	
		27,788 05
Balance due building committee,		653 99

Of all money expended in the building, we have kept accurate accounts, sustained by explicit vouchers, which are herewith submitted for your inspection.

Only such parts of the building have been completed as are necessary for the accommodation of the pupils at present connected with the Institution. A portion of the lower story has been completed, and the second or principal story is entirely completed, except the water-closets in the wings, and the warm and cold air registers. The floors are laid in the third story, and most of the rooms in the same are fitted up tempemporarily as dormitories, and are all occupied. The other parts of the house are unfinished, and, of course, must remain so, until the Legislature make an additional appropriation, as the building fund is now entirely exhausted.

The Committee have endeavored, at all times, to conform to the directions and wishes of your Board, expressed or understood: and, from the commencement of the work to the present time, we have had the satisfaction of perceiving that, in all things pertaining to the building, the views of your Board have accorded with our own; so, that in conforming to your wishes, we have acted in accordance with the decisions of our own judgment, and subserved, as we trust, the bests interests of the Institution and the State.

Respectfully submitted,

L. RUFFNER, } *Building Committee.*
B. M. PATTEN, }

KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, }
December 31, 1855. }